## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA CENTRAL DIVISION

YVONNE TAYLOR, and SOUTH DAKOTA	) Case No. 19-300	13
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
V.	) COMPL	AINT
STEVEN HAUGAARD, in his official capacity	)	
as Speaker of the House,	)	
Defendant.	)	

## NATURE OF THE CASE

- 1. This action is initiated by Yvonne Taylor and the South Dakota Municipal League in order to secure their First Amendment right to free speech and engage in the political process.
  - 2. This action is brought by the Plaintiffs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 3. This Court has original jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a)(3).
- 4. Venue is proper in the District of South Dakota, Central Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(2).

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff Yvonne Taylor ("Taylor") is the Executive Director of the South Dakota Municipal League, and has been since September of 1996. She is a resident of Hughes County, South Dakota, and her office is located in Stanley County, South Dakota.
- 6. Plaintiff South Dakota Municipal League is a private, non-profit organization of municipalities, with its principal place of business in Stanley County, South Dakota.
- 7. The South Dakota Municipal League ("the League") represents the state's 309 incorporated municipalities and advocates for its members' interests. Organized in 1934, the League's mission is to facilitate the cooperative improvement of municipal government in South Dakota. Policies are determined by the vote of members representing cities and towns of every size. In addition, the League offers its members research and training programs, League-

sponsored risk-pooling options, investments, computer software, website design and ordinance codification.

- 8. Defendant Steven Haugaard ("Haugaard") is sued in his official capacity as Speaker of the House of the South Dakota House of Representatives.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Haugaard is a resident of Minnehaha County, and primarily performs his duties as Speaker of the House at the state capitol in Pierre, Hughes County, South Dakota.
- 10. Taylor is a registered lobbyist with the South Dakota Secretary of State, has been continuously registered to lobby on behalf of the SD Municipal League from 1997-2019, and lobbies on behalf of the League. Taylor also lobbied from 1992-1994 also on behalf of the South Dakota Municipal League. Taylor also lobbies for one other association which is affiliated with the Municipal League.
- 11. The floor of the South Dakota House of Representatives ("House Floor") is open to lobbyists as well as to the public during certain hours while the Legislature is in session.
- 12. Upon information and belief, since at least 1991, no particular individual or class of individuals has been prohibited from entering onto the House Floor during the hours it is open to the public and to lobbyists.
- 13. The League publishes a monthly magazine to its members called *South Dakota Municipalities*. Each month Taylor writes a column on items of interest to the members.
- 14. Among other things, this column has been used to advocate on certain issues important to members, such as referred issues and constitutional amendments, and to encourage political involvement.
- 15. Taylor authored a column in the *South Dakota Municipalities* magazine encouraging the members to vote in the June 2018 primary election. She asked members to consider voting for legislators willing to study the issues and not those who prejudge issues through a narrow predetermined standard.
- 16. Taylor's column appeared in the May 2018 issue of the *South Dakota Municipalities* magazine.
- 17. On Monday, January 14, 2019, Haugaard called Taylor into his office. Haugaard asked Taylor to close the door and a conversation ensued about the column Taylor wrote for the South Dakota Municipalities Magazine, May 2018 issue. Haugaard had not previously discussed the column with Taylor.
- 18. Haugaard told Taylor that she had made the Legislature look like "a bunch of buffoons." Haugaard stated that Taylor was allowed to privately think the thoughts expressed in the column, but that she could not publish them. Haugaard then asked Taylor to not enter the House Floor during the times it is open to the public until further notice. This conduct took place in Hughes County, South Dakota.

- 19. On January 16, 2019, Taylor had a letter delivered to Haugaard stating she disagreed with the premise of his action. In that letter, Taylor asked that by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Haugaard provide her with the legal authority he used to ban Taylor from the House Floor. Taylor received no response.
- 20. On January 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., Taylor approached the Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Rollie Borth, and asked if Taylor could enter onto the House Floor. Mr. Borth told Taylor that "the Speaker" had instructed him not to let Taylor on the floor. Mr. Borth is a state employee and takes direction from Haugaard.
- 21. Mr. Borth then handed Taylor a page from a book, which upon information and belief is a section of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. This is the authority Haugaard relies upon for banning Taylor from the House Floor.
- 22. Taylor is unable to adequately represent the South Dakota Municipal League without being able to speak to legislators on the House Floor when it is open to the public. Taylor is also unable to advocate on other issues that are of personal interest to her.
- 23. A critical component of lobbying, whether for a client or on one's own behalf, is being in the location where and when legislators and groups of legislators can be found. Being on the House Floor allows lobbyists and members of the public to speak with many legislators in one place at one time.
- 24. Most South Dakota legislators do not have offices, so the legislators' desks on the House Floor is the place where most legislators can be found.
- 25. One important aspect of lobbying is circulating bill sponsor sheets and explaining to legislators the bill they are being asked to sponsor. Legislators sign the bill sponsor sheet in order to become a sponsor of a bill. This activity occurs almost exclusively on the floors of the House and Senate.
- 26. The deadline for getting bill draft requests with completed bill sponsor sheets to the Legislative Research Council is Monday, January 28, 2019.
- 27. By being barred from the House Floor, Taylor loses an opportunity to obtain sponsor signatures and communicate with legislators about the bills and related issues. As a result, Plaintiffs' opinions and advocacy efforts are significantly limited.
- 28. South Dakota's legislative session is 40 days in length, making ease of access all the more critical for lobbyists, organizations and members of the public.
- 29. The Speaker's action banning Taylor from the House Floor greatly impedes Plaintiffs' ability to contact legislators and advocate their viewpoints and concerns at a critical time in the legislative process.

# CLAIM ONE FIRST AMENDMENT/FIRST AMENDMENT RETALIATION

- 30. Plaintiffs herein incorporate all allegations contained in the paragraphs above.
- 31. Defendant acted under the color of state law in prohibiting Plaintiff Taylor from entering the House Floor.
- 32. Defendant deprived Plaintiffs of rights or privileges secured by the Constitution, namely, Plaintiffs' First Amendment right to free speech.
- 33. Defendant's action restricted Plaintiffs' expression because of its message, ideas, subject matter, or its content.
- 34. Defendant's conduct was not the least restrictive means to achieve a compelling governmental interest, and there is no compelling governmental interest at issue here.
- 35. In authoring her magazine column and publishing the column, Plaintiff was engaged in activity protected by the First Amendment, namely political speech.
- 36. Defendant took adverse action against Plaintiffs that would chill a person of ordinary firmness from continuing the activity.
  - 37. The adverse action was motivated at least in part by Plaintiffs' protected activity.
- 38. Defendant's conduct otherwise violates the First Amendment as Plaintiffs have been singled out and treated differently than other lobbyists, organizations or members of the public based upon their advocacy and have been prevented from exercising their free speech rights in the political process.

#### RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that the Court enter judgment in their favor as follows:

- 1. That this Court assume jurisdiction;
- 2. That this Court declare that banning Taylor from the House Floor violates Plaintiffs' First Amendment right to free speech;
- 3. Grant preliminary and permanent injunctive relief by ordering the Defendant to allow Taylor on the House Floor as otherwise allowed for lobbyists and members of the general public;
- 4. Grant Plaintiffs' reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988;

5. Grant the Plaintiffs any further relief which may in the discretion of the Court be necessary and proper to ensure Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights.

Dated: January 22, 2019.

GUNDERSON, PALMER, NELSON & ASHMORE, LLP

By: /s/ David E. Lust

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JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

**CIVIL COVER SHEET** 

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Hughes (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Minnehaha  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A David E. Lust, Gunderson 506 Sixth Street, PO Box (605) 342-1078	Address, and Telephone Number) n, Palmer, Nelson & Ashmore, LLP : 8045, Rapid City, SD 57709		Attorneys (If Known) Jason Ravnsborg, 1302 E. Hwy 14, S Pierre, SD 57501		ral of Sout	h Dakota		
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